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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,687

Applicant(s)

STEWART, ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Baturay

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05212007,06212007.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), which was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 21 June 2007 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-11, 14 and 21 were amended.
3. Claims 19 and 23 were cancelled.
4. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

5. The rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office Action mailed on 21 December 2006. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 and 20-22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and the old rejection maintained.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 1 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: Applicants state "...a messaging protocol that allows each business trading partners to use..." It is thought

that Applicants meant to write "...a messaging protocol that allows each *of the* business trading partners to use..." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. 6,161,149) and further in view of Balabanovic (U.S. 6,624,826).

Achacoso teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system for communicating information among members of a discussion group using a central agent. The central agent receives and stores messages, causing discussions to be maintained (see Abstract).

9. With respect to claim 1, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation

between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then

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specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

10. Claims 11 and 23 do not teach or define any new limitations above claim 1 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

11. Claims 2-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. 6,640,241).

12. With respect to claim 2, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces

stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific

business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 36-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

13. With respect to claim 3, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 2, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with

a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where the routing criteria is specified in a message overhead (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

14. With respect to claim 4, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 3, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where the collaboration hub includes a repository of business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

15. With respect to claim 5, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with

a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message router.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message router. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

16. With respect to claim 6, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

17. With respect to claim 7, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging bridge.

However, Ozzie teaches system further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space (Ozzie, col. 20, lines 38-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging bridge. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

18. With respect to claim 8, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging gateway.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 38-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging gateway. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

19. With respect to claim 9, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 8, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63) and the system where the business messaging system is any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

20. With respect to claim 10, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they

use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging proxy.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device (Ozzie, col. 21, lines 35-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging proxy. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

21. With respect to claim 21, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and

sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then

specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message router and filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the system including a message router that routes a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31) and a message filter that filters a message (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message router and filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

22. Claims 12-18, 20 and 22 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 2-10 and 21 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments filed 21 June 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.
24. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant respectfully submits that, in both Achacoso and Balabanovic, it appears that messages are sent via email, together with in some instances an embedded link to another file or message. However, both of the descriptions appear to suggest that the recipient of the email is a human operator, and that manual intervention by the human operator is required to retrieve the ultimate message.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Achacoso and Balabanovic teach a central collaboration hub (HTTP server, intelligent agent, database and SMTP server collectively establish the central agent – see Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) capable of automatically receiving (Intelligent agent receives input A from member Person 1) and sending messages (Intelligent agent selects the members to whom the input is relevant, in this case Person 2 and Person 3, and pushes and posts notice of activity with hyperlink at the peripheral computers for members Persons 2 and 3 – see Achacoso, col. 6, line 67 – col. 7, line 5). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

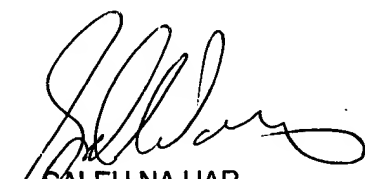
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at M-Th 7:15 - 5pm, 2nd Fridays 7:15-3:45, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay
August 27, 2007


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER